**Diversion of route of Delhi-Patna Rajdhani Express**

2992. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for changing the route of Delhi-Patna Rajdhani Express; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) There is no proposal to change the route of 2309/ 2310 New Delhi-Patna Rajdhani Express at present.

(b) Does not arise.

**Target for rail freight traffic in 1996-97**

2993. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways earned far below their target for freight traffic in 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reasons for not achieving the target set for carrying raw materials for steel plants, finished steel, iron ore, cement, fertilizers and petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) There was a shortfall in freight earnings with reference to the original target. However, with reference to the revised target, the actual freight earnings were higher in comparison with the proportionate target upto Jan, 1997, as brought out below:

To end of Jan 1997

(Rs. in crore)

| | Proportionate target based on Revised Estimate | Actuals | Variation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Goods Earnings | 13558.18 | 13615.82 | +57.64 |

The shortfall was essentially due to non-materialisation of projected traffic from the core sector barring coal.

**Rules followed in employing casual employees**

2994. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) The rules being followed in employing casual employees in the Ministry;

(b) Whether these rules have been violated during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the action taken against the reasons found guilty in this regard, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) As per extant policy fresh face casual labour on the Railways are employed with the prior personal approval of the General Managers, adhering to extant instructions regarding the procedure to be followed and educational qualifications, medical standards and age limits as laid down for the particular category in which they are likely to be absorbed.

Percentage laid down in favour of SC/ ST for recruitment to Group 'D' categories are applied in the intake of casual labour both in the open line and the projects.

While engaging fresh face casual labour for works expected to last for some months, the order regarding reservation for employment to ex-servicemen are also to be followed.

(b) and (c) The informaiton is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.